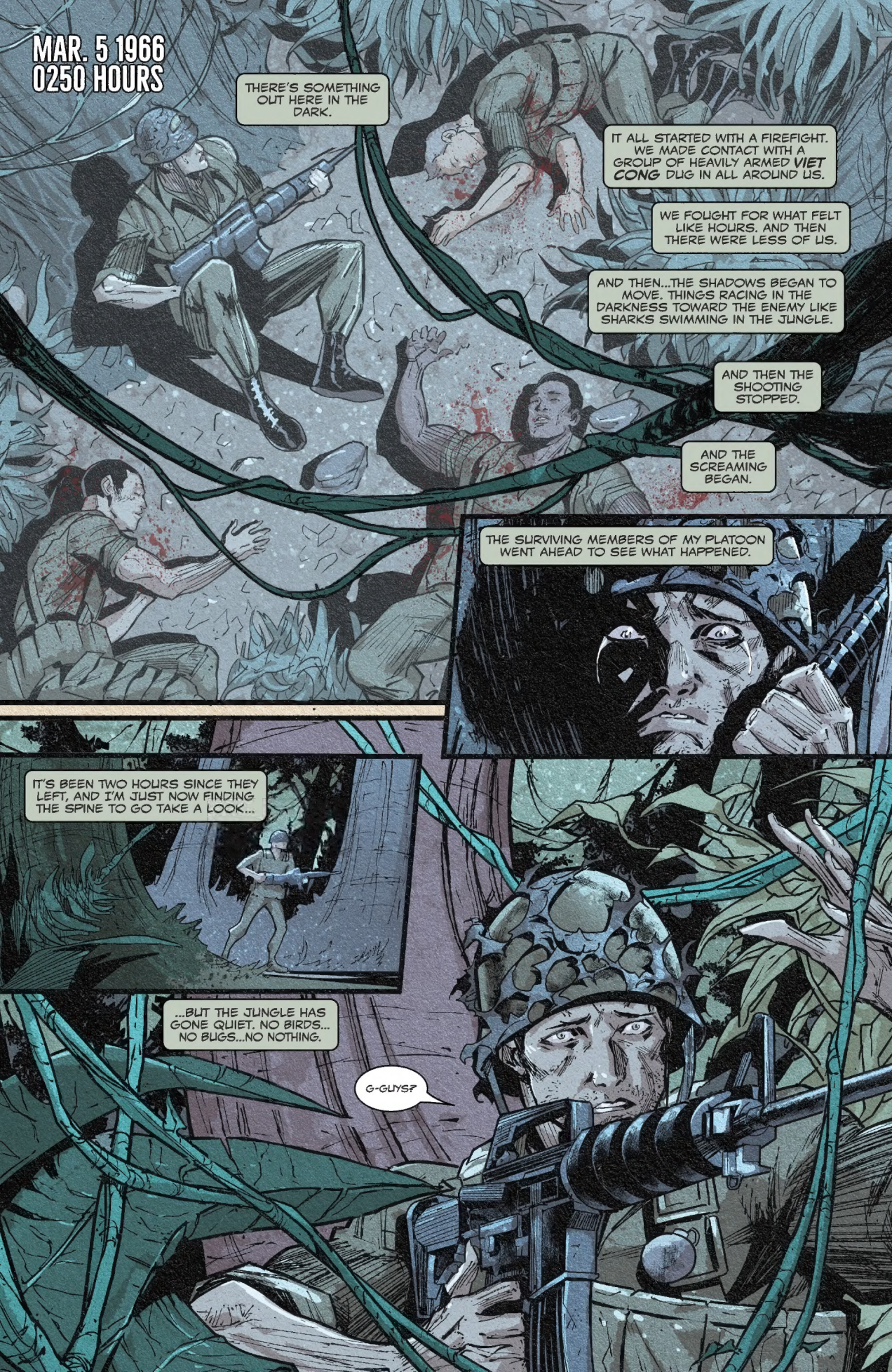
MARVEL
1
CATES
RAMÍREZ
SOBREIRO
WEB OF VENOM
VE'NAM


MAR. 5 1966
0250 HOURS
THERE'S SOMETHING OUT HERE IN THE DARK.
IT ALL STARTED WITH A FIREFIGHT. WE MADE CONTACT WITH A GROUP OF HEAVILY ARMED VIET CONG DUG IN ALL AROUND US.
WE FOUGHT FOR WHAT FELT LIKE HOURS. AND THEN THERE WERE LESS OF US.
AND THEN...THE SHADOWS BEGAN TO MOVE. THINGS RACING IN THE DARKNESS TOWARD THE ENEMY LIKE SHARKS SWIMMING IN THE JUNGLE.
AND THEN THE SHOOTING STOPPED.
AND THE SCREAMING BEGAN.
THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF MY PLATOON WENT AHEAD TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS SINCE THEY LEFT, AND I'M JUST NOW FINDING THE SPINE TO GO TAKE A LOOK...
...BUT THE JUNGLE HAS GONE QUIET. NO BIRDS... NO BUGS...NO NOTHING.
G-GUYS?

LIKE EVERYTHING 'SIDES US HAD THE GOOD SENSE GOD GAVE A GNAT TO GET THE HELL OUT OF DODGE...
OH, OH DEAR GOD...
...BEFORE THE REAL DARKNESS FALLS.
MMM?
Y-YOU... K-KILLED--

AGH!
GAH! P-PLEASE!
N-NO!
AGGHHHHH!

EDDIE BROCK BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE, GRANTING HIM A MULTITUDE OF UNIQUE ABILITIES, AS WELL AS A PREDILECTION FOR EXTREME VIOLENCE TEMPERED ONLY BY EDDIE'S SENSE OF JUSTICE AND HUMANITY.

UNTIL RECENTLY, EDDIE BELIEVED HIS SYMBIOTE TO BE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE ON EARTH. HOWEVER, THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT SYMBIOTE, KNOWN AS THE GRENDEL, AND FORMER HOST REX STRICKLAND, A VIETNAM VETERAN, TURNED THAT BELIEF ON ITS HEAD.

BUT HOW DID A SYMBIOTE FIND ITS WAY INTO A WAR ZONE?

VE'NAM

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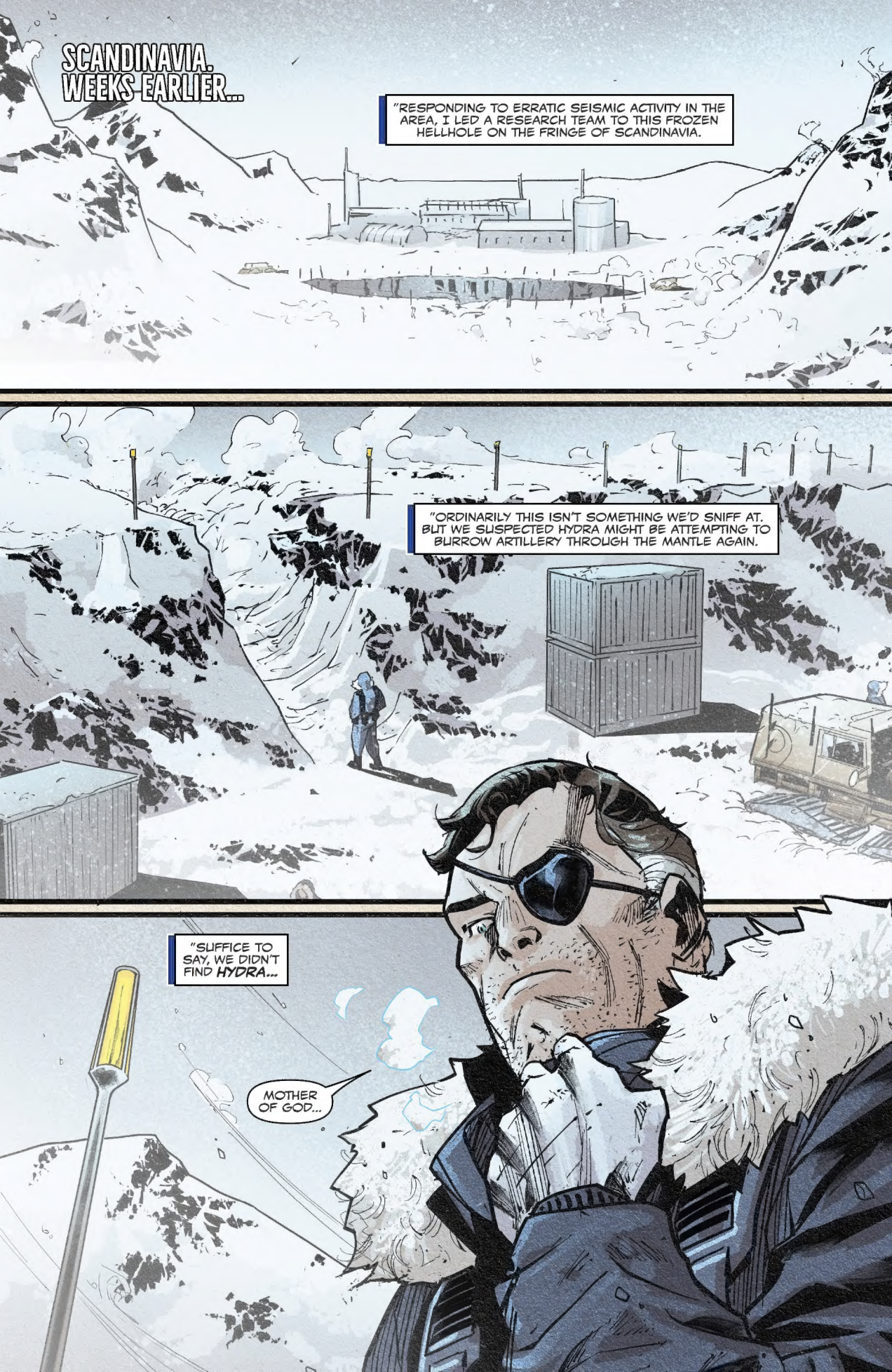

SCANDINAVIA.
WEEKS EARLIER...
"RESPONDING TO ERRATIC SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA, I LED A RESEARCH TEAM TO THIS FROZEN HELLHOLE ON THE FRINGE OF SCANDINAVIA.
"ORDINARILY THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE'D SNIFF AT, BUT WE SUSPECTED HYDRA MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO BURROW ARTILLERY THROUGH THE MANTLE AGAIN.
"SUFFICE TO SAY, WE DIDN'T FIND *HYDRA*...
MOTHER OF GOD...

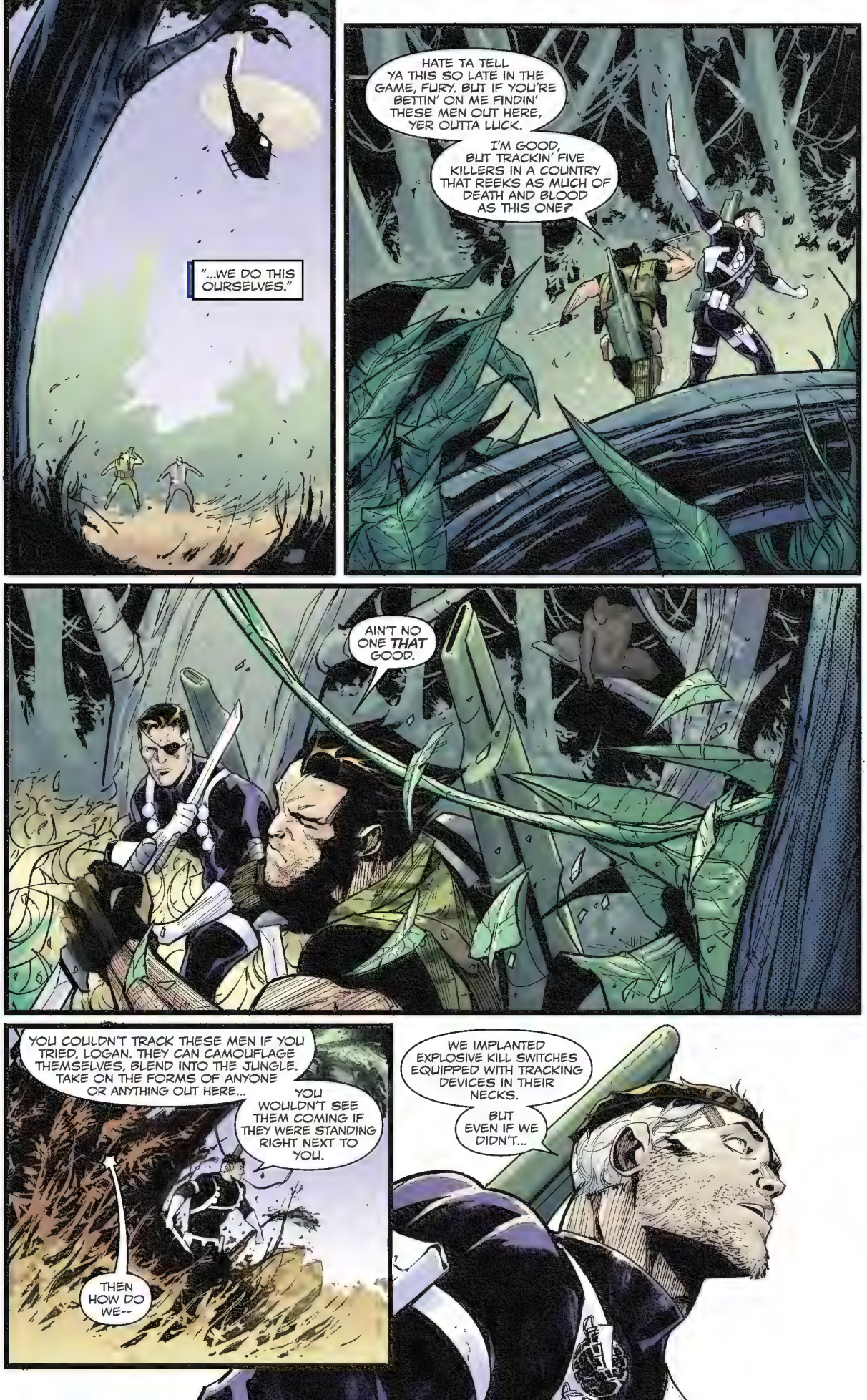
"...BUT WE DID FIND A DRAGON.

"WE EXTRACTED A SAMPLE FROM THE CREATURE, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS AN ANCIENT BEING WAS ACTUALLY SOMETHING...ALIEN.
"AND, TO OUR ASTONISHMENT, IT WAS ALIVE.
"AFTER FURTHER EXPERIMENTATION, WE INTRODUCED THE SAMPLE TO A LIVE TEST SUBJECT TO GAUGE ITS EFFECTS.
"WE DISCOVERED THE ALIEN WAS SYMBIOTIC IN ORIGIN. AND WHILE IT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BONDING WITH ITS HOST...
"...THERE WERE CERTAIN... UNFORESEEN SIDE EFFECTS."
HEH, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
CUT TO THE CHASE, FURY. WHEN DID YOU MOVE ON TO HUMAN SUBJECTS?

"DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK OF US, WE ARE NOT MONSTERS.
"AND AS HARD AS IT MAY BE FOR YOU TO FATHOM, THIS WASN'T EXACTLY MY CALL.
"S.H.I.E.L.D. IS, AFTER ALL, STILL BEHOLDEN TO THE WILLS OF CERTAIN...OFFICIALS.
"AND AFTER THE LOSS OF CAPTAIN ROGERS, THE BRASS WAS AWFUL KEEN ON DEVELOPING THE NEXT WAVE OF SUPER-SOLDIERS.
"THE MEN WE CHOSE FOR THE SYM-SOLDIER PROGRAM WERE ALL HAND-SELECTED BY YOURS TRULY.
"LED BY THIS MAN, REX STRICKLAND.
"CODENAME: *TYRANNOSAURUS.*"

WE DEPLOYED THEM FOUR MONTHS AGO TO SOUTH VIETNAM. WE FOUND WHAT WE BELIEVED TO BE A SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS DEPOT RUN BY SOME LITTLE @#$% WHO THOUGHT HIMSELF A FUTURE VIET CONG WAR HERO...
AND?
AND THEY WIPED HIM OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET. ALONG WITH AN ENTIRE COMPANY OF SOLDIERS.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
THE COMPANY THEY KILLED WAS OURS.
SOMETHING HAS GONE SIDEWAYS IN THE JUNGLE, SOLDIER.
OUR MONSTERS ARE OFF THE LEASH.
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?
I WAS HOPING I COULD APPEAL TO YOUR SENSE OF PATRIOTISM.
HEH... NO DICE, BUB.
I'M CANADIAN.

I NEED YOUR HELP, LOGAN. YOU KNOW THE TERRAIN BETTER THAN ANY MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN, AND--
YOU NEED THESE THINGS PUT DOWN.
THAT A PROBLEM?
...
NO. IT'S JUST...
WE DISCOVER LIFE EXISTS ON OTHER PLANETS AND...AND WE SEND 'EM TO WAR?
HELL KINDA THING IS THAT?
...
NICK... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE DISCOVERED ALIEN LIFE, RIGHT?
THERE'LL BE A CHOPPER WAITING TO TAKE US OUT IN THE MORNING, BE READY TO--
LOGAN... GIVE ME SOME CREDIT...
HOLD UP. "US"? I AIN'T GREAT WITH TEAMS, NICK...
WHO WOULD BE DUMB ENOUGH TO PUT YOU ON A TEAM?
NO...


"...WE DO THIS OURSELVES."
HATE TA TELL YA THIS SO LATE IN THE GAME, FURY. BUT IF YOU'RE BETTIN' ON ME FINDIN' THESE MEN OUT HERE, YER OUTTA LUCK.
I'M GOOD, BUT TRACKIN' FIVE KILLERS IN A COUNTRY THAT REEKS AS MUCH OF DEATH AND BLOOD AS THIS ONE?
AIN'T NO ONE *THAT* GOOD.
YOU COULDN'T TRACK THESE MEN IF YOU TRIED, LOGAN. THEY CAN CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES, BLEND INTO THE JUNGLE, TAKE ON THE FORMS OF ANYONE OR ANYTHING OUT HERE...
YOU WOULDN'T SEE THEM COMING IF THEY WERE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.
THEN HOW DO WE--
WE IMPLANTED EXPLOSIVE KILL SWITCHES EQUIPPED WITH TRACKING DEVICES IN THEIR NECKS.
BUT EVEN IF WE DIDN'T...

...THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LEAVE A TRAIL.
HELL. NOT MUCH LEFT OF 'EM...
CAN'T EVEN TELL WHICH SIDE THEY WERE--
DOES IT MATTER?
NO.
NO, I GUESS IT DON'T.

YOU SAID THESE MEN HAVE KILL SWITCHES IN THEIR NECKS. SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER, FURY? WHY DRAG ME HERE?
WE CAN'T. NOT WHILE THEY'RE IN ENEMY TERRITORY. THIS THING THEY'RE WEARING...IT'S ALIVE.
IF THE MEN INSIDE DIE, THE ALIEN WILL SEEK OUT A NEW HOST. AND IF--
IF CHARLIE GETS HIS HANDS ON ONE OF 'EM, THAT'S A BAD DAY FOR EVERYONE.
EXACTLY. YOU FIND SOMETHING?
YEAH...
LOOKS TO BE A BAD DAY FOR EVERYONE...
THEY DUG THE KILL SWITCHES OUT OF THEIR OWN NECKS.
NICK, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DEALING WITH OUT--
LOGAN? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DID YOU--
SHUT UP.
SOMETHING'S CLOSE...

WHOA... P-PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!
REX?
STRICKLAND, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHERE IS YOUR SUIT?
IT... IT LEFT ME.
I LOST TIME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...
I WAS... MY MEN AND I...WE COULDN'T CONTROL THEM.
THEY, THE ALIENS... STARTED SCREAMING AT US...IN OUR MINDS.
SOME OTHER KINDA LANGUAGE, DIDN'T MAKE NO SENSE...AND THEN WE'D--WE'D BLACK OUT AND WHEN WE WOKE UP THERE'D BE...
OH GOD... OH GOD, WE DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T WE?
WE DID THIS...
CALM DOWN, SOLDIER. TAKE A BREATH.
CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THEY ARE? WHY DID THEY TURN? WHAT IS MAKING THEM ACT LIKE THIS?

GET AWAY FROM IT!
THAT AIN'T ME!
REX?!
FWOOSH
RAAAGHHH!

UWAAAAM
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING?!
YOU HAVE TO RUN! GUNS AREN'T GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO IT!
FALL BACK, STRICKLAND! THESE BAD BOYS WERE DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO INCAPACITATE THESE THINGS.
IF WE CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT WE CAN--
INCAPACITATE AIN'T GONNA CUT IT!
I'LL HOLD THIS THING OFF, BUT YOU HAVE TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND CALL FOR AN AIR--
YOUR FUEL TANK! GET IT OFF BEFORE IT--

BOOOOM
@#$%&!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, MAN...ARE YOU--
YEAH. I'M-- RGN--A'RIGHT. JUST GIMME A SEC.
W-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
HEY! LOOK ALIVE!

WHERE DID IT GO?
NO, NO...WE HAVE TO LEAVE. IF THEY KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, THEY WON'T STOP.
RELAX, KID. WE'RE GONNA GET YOU AND YOUR MEN OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHEN I WORE THAT SUIT I COULD PRACTICALLY WALK THROUGH NAPALM!
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP THEM!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THESE THINGS!
WELL, SOLDIER...

...I'M AFRAID WE MIGHT BE FRESH OUT OF OPTIONS.
GET OUT OF HERE, KID! WE'LL HANDLE THIS!
NO, YOU DON'T--
RUN!
I'LL COME BACK...I SWEAR I'LL COME BACK...
DAMMIT, LOGAN!
REX! COME BACK HERE, SOLDIER! THAT'S AN ORDER!
LET HIM GO. IF YOU NEED SOME MORE MEN TO DIE FOR YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT...
...I THINK YER WISH IS ABOUT TA' COME TRUE!
ARRGHH!

AGGHHH!
RATATAT
KEEP RUNNING. KEEP RUNNING. DON'T LOOK BACK, DON'T--
GRAGHH!
DAMN...
ARRGGHHH!
LOGAN!

Roa...
Roa is coming!
@#$%!

AGHH!
WARRIOR
Y-YOU OKAY? I HAD TO COME BACK, AND YOU--
GIVE... GIVE ME THE GUN...
WAIT, YOU'LL KILL HIM TOO!
YEAH. PLANNING ON IT.

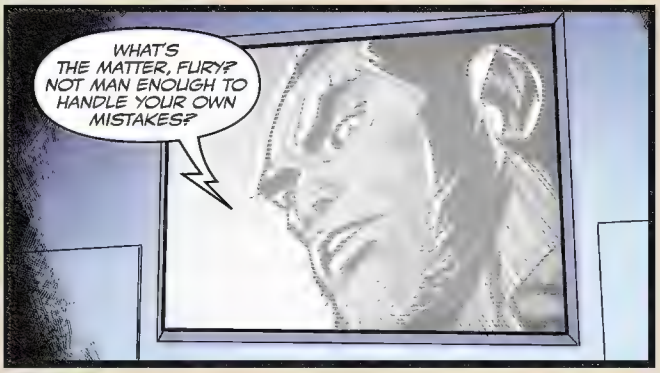
VWAAAAAM

THEY'RE--THEY'RE GONE...
NO, THEY AREN'T. THEY'RE SURROUNDING US. TAKING A BREATH TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE ARE...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS SOME OF US AIN'T WHAT WE LOOK LIKE...
...THE HELL?

THEY'RE CALLED LMDs. LIFE-MODEL DECOYS.

IT'S A FANCY WAY OF SAYING "COWARD," IF YOU ASK ME...


WHAT'S THE MATTER, FURY? NOT MAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE YOUR OWN MISTAKES?

OR ARE YOU JUST SCARED OF WHAT I WOULD DO TO YOU WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS?
LOGAN--
SAVE IT. I JUST BONDED TO ONE OF THOSE DAMN THINGS. I KNOW WHAT YOU DID. WHAT YOU'RE STILL DOING...
YOU WANNA TELL HIM OR SHOULD I?
WE...WE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN...
WHEN WE DISCOVERED THE SAMPLE, WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS...WHAT WE HAD FOUND.
AND WHEN WE DISCOVERED IT WAS ALIVE...
YOU TRIED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO KILL IT.

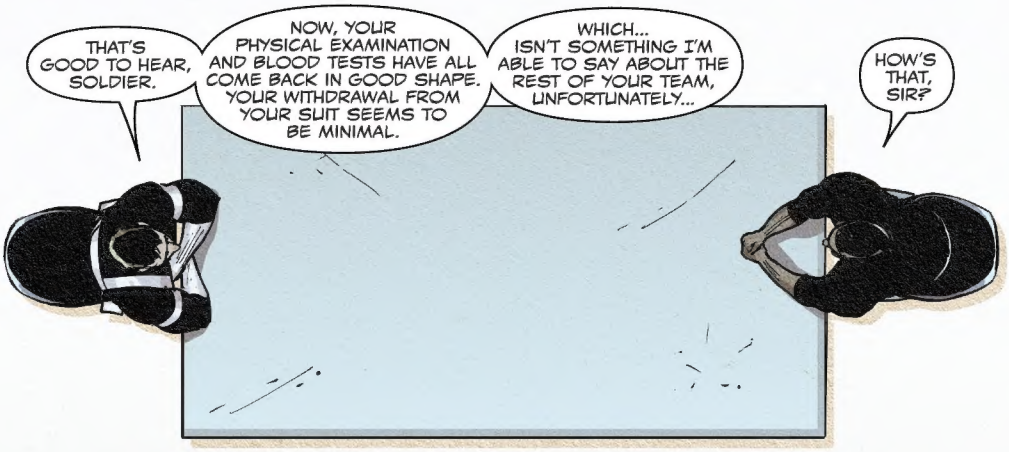
"WE HAD TO, LOGAN. WE HAD TO KNOW HOW TO HURT IT IF WE WERE GOING TO RISK UNLEASHING PARTS OF IT INTO THE WAR.
"WE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THEY SHARED A HIVE MIND THE WAY THEY DO.
"WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD DRIVE THEM INSANE.
"WE DIDN'T KNOW ITS SPAWN WOULD FEEL THE PAIN OF THE ORIGINAL."

YOU PUT SOMETHING IN A CAGE...POKED AND PRODDED IT UNTIL IT BROKE...AND YOU ACT SURPRISED WHEN IT COMES BACK TO BITE YOU.
IS THAT WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF ME FOR THIS? HUH?
ONE ANIMAL AGAINST ANOTHER?
...I'M SORRY IT HAD TO END LIKE THIS.
I NEEDED THIS CLEANED UP. QUIETLY.
YOU KNOW THE SCORE, LOGAN. ALWAYS HAVE.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...
BLEEP
WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? WHAT IS IT COUNTING DOWN TO?
DETONATION.
WHAT? WE HAVE TO... TO RUN!
I KNOW NICK. I KNOW S.H.I.E.L.D. IF THAT THING IS MEANT TO CLEAN THIS ALL UP, RUNNING AIN'T GONNA HELP.
YOU'LL ONLY DIE TIRED, KID.
WE GOT 60 SECONDS ON THE CLOCK BEFORE THIS WHOLE JUNGLE IS ASHES.
BUT DON'T WORRY...

...I DON'T SEE US LASTING THAT LONG.
55
"SO WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
FINE. COME ON!
"AFTER THE COUNTDOWN BEGAN?"
45
"WE WERE SURROUNDED. THE ALIENS AND THE MEN INSIDE...THEY WERE RELENTLESS.
30
"I WAS OVERTAKEN BY THE ALIEN THAT ATTACKED YOU. IT CRAWLED BACK ON TO ME AND IT FELT...
"I DON'T KNOW...
"...AFRAID.
"I FELT REGRET INSIDE OF IT.
"REGRET...
15

"...AND RAGE.
"IT SHIELDED ME FROM THE BLAST.
"IT SAVED MY LIFE.
"I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ELSE AFTER THAT, HONESTLY.
NOT... ANIMALS...
"THE OTHER MAN...LOGAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO--"
"THERE WAS NO OTHER MAN. UNDERSTAND?"
"UNDERSTOOD, SIR."
"WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? AFTER THE BLAST?"

"...I WOKE UP ALONE."
AND THEN YOUR AGENTS CAME AND FOUND ME AND MY MEN. NOW I'M HERE IN THIS ROOM.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW, SIR.
YOU UNDERSTAND WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO, RIGHT?
I'D MAKE THE SAME CALL AGAIN TOMORROW IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
IT AIN'T PRETTY. BUT IT'S THE JOB, YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE ALIVE.
SIR.


THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, SOLDIER.
NOW, YOUR PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND BLOOD TESTS HAVE ALL COME BACK IN GOOD SHAPE. YOUR WITHDRAWAL FROM YOUR SUIT SEEMS TO BE MINIMAL.
WHICH... ISN'T SOMETHING I'M ABLE TO SAY ABOUT THE REST OF YOUR TEAM, UNFORTUNATELY...
HOW'S THAT, SIR?

WE CAN'T SEPARATE THEM. THOSE DAMNED THINGS HAVE GOT A HOLD ON THEM SOMETHING FIERCE, SON.
IF WE TRY TO PRY THEM OFF... THEY'LL DIE.
I SEE. WHAT...WHAT DO WE DO, THEN?
WE'LL PUT 'EM ON ICE. IT'S A FAIRLY NEW PROCEDURE. CRYOGENICS, THE EGGHEADS CALL IT. I DON'T CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS...BUT, WELL, THERE IT IS.
BEST WE CAN DO UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND THIS THING A LITTLE MORE.
SIR...I'M NOT SURE IF I'M SUPPOSED TO...TO TALK ABOUT THIS, BUT...
MY SUIT. THE ALIEN SAMPLE I WAS WEARING...HAVE YOU FOUND IT YET?
NO. NO, WE HAVEN'T. BUT WE WILL. I HAVE MY BEST MAN ON TOP OF IT. KNOWS THESE THINGS LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND.
SIR... MAY I ASK? WHO IS IT?

WELL, THAT'D BE YOU, SOLDIER.
YOU'VE MORE THAN EARNED IT. WHAT DO YOU SAY, STRICKLAND?
YOU WANNA HELP ME HUNT AN ALIEN?
IT WOULD BE MY HONOR, SIR.
THE END.

WEB OF VENOM
CARNAGE BORN
issue #1

AN OROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP